Recommendation of Shukla Commission on development of tourism in NE region

2123. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the feature of salient recommendations of the Shukla Commission on development of the Tourism sector in the North East in terms of PM's special package; and

(b) the action taken, target fixed and achievement made so far in implementing each of the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Salient recommendations of the Shukla Commission on development of tourism in North-East are as under:

(i) Setting up of Northeast Tourist Development Corporation.

(ii) Setting up of International Airport at Guwahati.

(iii) Organising of low budget tour packages for North-East.

(iv) To simplify / relax Restricted Area / Inner Line Permits regime.

(v) To give proper advertisement of North-East through tourism offices, travel trade and airlines in India and abroad.

(vi) To start Tourist Training Courses in the region to turn out competent tour opeators and guides.

(vii) Special holiday tour / travel concessions by Railways

Various steps taken by the Minister of Tourism to promote tourism in North-East Region include:-

- Setting up of Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management at Guwahati Setting up a full fledged Institue of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Shillong, in addition to existing Institute at Guwahati.
- Video film on tourism attractions of North-East which is being screened in Air India flights.
- Free booth in the World's largest tourism fair ITB at Berlin.
- Financial assistanc for promotion of fairs and festivals on continuing basis.

- Special focus in the Marketing Conference of Overseas offices of the Ministry giving due publicity to North-East States.
- During 1998-99, 77 tourism projects have ben sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 1181.65 lakhs released.

Completion of irrigation schemes / projects

2124. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation schemes / project being executed with the Central assistance in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these projects are being completed as per the time schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the efforts being made by the Government for their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Centre has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stage of completion or mega projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States. The Satate-wise details of major / medium irrigation schemes included under AIBP alongwith their latest esti- mated cost and ultimate irrigation is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 189 Annexure No. 61]

(b) and (c) The completion of these projects depends upon various factors such as their size, availability of land, clearances, geological conditions etc. Equally important is allocation of funds to the individual project by the State Government in respect of their share for utilising CLA under AIBP.

Long and short term plans for water management

2125. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cultivable land productivity can only be increased through proper water management and large scale drainage works;